

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming a shaped article having a matrix ~~containing~~of sintered fly ash, said method comprising the steps of:

blending fly ash, ~~together with~~plasticiser and water to produce a fly ash dough, the water being added in excess of that which is absorbed by the fly ash so that the dough contains free water so as to be in at least a partially fluid state;

forming a green article ~~in a desired shape~~ from the fly ash dough,

removing at least a portion of the free water from the fly ash dough during and/or after forming of the green article; and

subsequently firing the green article so that the shaped article is hardened by sintering its fly ash to form a matrix, solely of sintered fly ash.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of curing the green article by heating or air drying before it is fired, wherein during curing the water reacts with the fly ash so as to at least partially solidify the article.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein during the curing of the green article by heating or air drying, at least a portion of the free water is removed from the fly ash dough.
5. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~either~~ claim 4, wherein the green article is subjected to ~~low to moderate~~ heating during curing.
6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the green article is subjected to heating in a temperature range of 30°C to 80°C, ~~and more preferably in the range of 55°C to 65°C.~~
7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the article is subjected to heating in a temperature range of 55°C to 65°.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~8~~5, wherein the ~~humidity is~~green article is subjected to humidity in the range of 20% relative humidity to 60% relative humidity.
10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~8~~9, wherein the humidity is in the range of 35% relative humidity to 45% relative humidity.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein after removing as least a portion of the free water from the fly ash dough, the moisture content in the dough is in the range of 1 to 5%.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein after removing at least a portion of the free water from the fly ash dough, the moisture content in the dough is in the range of 2 to 4%.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the curing time is in between 12 hours to 5 days.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the curing time is between 1 and 3 days.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the firing temperature is in the range of 1000°C to 1300°C.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the firing temperature is between 1100°C and 1250°C.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the duration of firing is in the range of 30 minutes to 6 hours.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the duration of firing is between 1 to 4 hours.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the green article is a building brick and the firing temperature is in the range of 1100°C to 1250°C.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A method of forming a shaped article having a matrix containing sintered fly ash, said method comprising the steps of:
blending only fly ash, plasticiser and water to form a dough, the water being added in excess of that which is absorbed by the fly ash so that the dough contains free water so as to be in at least a partially fluid state;
forming a green article from the fly ash dough;
removing at least a portion of the free water from the fly ash dough during and/or after forming of the green article; and
subsequently firing the green article so that the green article is hardened by sintering its fly ash matrix.